

Heide Piper holds the rank of Captain in the US Navy and is a distinguished former NASA astronaut. She was born and raised in Minnesota and earned a bachelor's and master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Heide joined the Navy in 1985 and focused on deep sea diving, salvage, and underwater repair.

Heide joined NASA in 1996 and flew to space on space shuttle Atlantis in 2006 and space shuttle Endeavor in 2008 to perform work on the International Space Station and other projects.

Heide has lived and worked in space for over 27 days, and has been on 5 "spacewalks", traveling outside of the space shuttle for more than 33 hours.